GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
CONTRACT TO AIR INDIA FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HAJ PILGRIMS
E. AHAMED;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to award contract to Air India for transportation of Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, whether Air India is likely to be able to undertake the job without affecting services on other international sectors;

(c) whether Air India is going to acquire additional aircraft for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) & (b) : Since after the events of 11.9.2001 in US, there has been a down-turn in passengers demand in the Civil Aviation sector and Air India/Indian Airlines have also beenimpacted creating spare capacity with them, it has been decided that Air India and Indian Airlines will transport approximately 40,000 pilgrims from India to Jeddah. Apart from this, Saudi Arabian Airlines is also participating in Haj-2002 operations and will transport 30500 pilgrims from India to Jeddah.

(c) and (d) : It is expected that an additional A-310 aircraft on lease would be added in Air India`s fleet before the start of Haj-2002 operations. This acquisition is not solely meant for Haj operation but part of long term plan for their scheduled operations as well.